

ORGANISM CELL AUTO-HANDLING APPARATUS AND ITS HANDLING METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to the draw/injection handling of organelles of organism cells and, more particularly, to an organism cell auto-handling method and an organism cell auto-handling apparatus for the method.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 In order to obtain effective analysis when studying hereditary diseases or immunological diseases, such as senile dementia, mucopolysaccharidoses, etc., it is necessary to study on the organelles, such as mitochondrion, Golgi apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, etc., of the cell. Therefore, cell organelle draw handling is important.

15 Conventionally, there are two cell organelle draw methods. The first cell organelle draw method is to split a mass of cells, and then uses a centrifuge to separate different compositions from the cytoplasm. This method cannot obtain a specific organelle of each individual cell. The second cell organelle draw method is to put the organism cell sample on a platform, and then use a high-power light microscope to
20 search a specific organelle from the organism cell, and then use a micro needle to pick up the organelle of the cell. The speed of this manual operation is slow, and its chance of failure is high. Further, because it is not easy to directly view the internal organelles of the cell through a light microscope, the illumination of ultraviolet light is necessary. However, the radiation of ultraviolet light affects the characteristics of the internal
25 organelles of the cell.

Therefore, it is desirable to provide an organism cell auto-handling apparatus that eliminates the aforesaid drawbacks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 It is the primary objective of the present invention to provide an organism cell auto-handling apparatus, which has the function of automatically and accurately drawing/injecting a specific organelle of an organism cell.

 It is another objective of the present invention to provide an organism cell auto-handling apparatus, which accelerates the speed of the draw/injection of a specific
10 cell organelle, and increases the change of success.

 It is still another objective of the present invention to provide an organism cell auto-handling apparatus, which does not affect the characteristics of the cell organelle during searching.

 It is still another objective of the present invention to provide an organism
15 cell auto-handling method using the apparatus provided by the present invention.

 According to one aspect of the present invention, the organism cell auto-handling apparatus comprises a platform, an organelle observation microscope unit, a piping device, and a system controller.

 According to another aspect of the present invention, the organism cell
20 auto-handling method is performed through the organism cell auto-handling apparatus, subject to the steps of putting an organism cell sample on the platform, using the organelle observation microscope unit to search the coordinate position of a specific organelle of the organism cell sample and to produce a corresponding coordinate data to the system controller, processing a draw/injection action to the specific organelle
25 through a micro needle of the piping device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic drawing of an organism cell auto-handling apparatus according to the present invention.

5 FIG. 2 is a flow chart showing the operation of the organism cell auto-handling apparatus according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart showing the operation of an alternate form of the organism cell auto-handling apparatus according to the present invention.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, an organism cell auto-handling apparatus is shown comprising a feed platform **10**, an organelle observation microscope unit **20**, a piping device **30**, and a system controller **40**.

15 The feed platform **10** is electrically connected to the system controller **40** and is precisely movable in X, Y, Z directions by the control of the system controller **40**, having a reference surface **11** for holding an organism cell sample **A** to be examined.

20 The organelle observation microscope unit **20** comprises a high-power light microscope **21**, a programmable multi-wavelength light source (not shown), an image sensor **22** provided at the back side of the high-power light microscope **21**, and an image processor **23**. When in use, the high-power light microscope **21** is operated to pick up the image of the organelles of the organism cell sample. Since various organelles have different spectrum features and the light source is controlled to emit light of different wavelengths to different organelles of the organism cell sample, the position of the organelles can be identified. And then, the image sensor **22** behind the

light microscope **21** transmits the image signal of the organelle of the organism cell sample from the high-power light microscope **21** to the image processor **23** for storage and further processing. Thereafter, the image processor **23** multiplies the pixel signal value of same location in different image signals by a number of different values, and
5 then sums up the total value, and then process the total value through an operation. If the processed pixel signal value surpassed a specific value, the location of a specific organelle **B** of the organism cell sample is defined, and the coordinate data of the location of such specific organelle **B** is determined and transmitted to the system controller **40**.

10 The piping device **30** comprises a micro needle **31** made of glass, silicon, or metal. The caliber of the pointed end of the micro needle **31** is slightly greater than the cell's organelle to be picked up/injected. According to the present preferred embodiment, the caliber of the pointed end of the micro needle **31** is within 0.5 to 8 μ m. The other end of the micro needle **31** is connected to a micro pump **32**, which is
15 electrically connected to the system controller **40**, and controlled by the system controller **40** to draw or inject such specific organelle **B**, achieving the organism cell handling process.

In this preferred embodiment, the feed platform **10** is moved relative to the piping device **30** by the control of the system controller **40** to a position convenient for
20 the micro needle **31** to draw or inject a specific organelle of an organism cell. Alternatively, the system of the present invention can be designed to move a piping device **30** relative to a fixed feed platform **10** by the control of the system controller **40** for enabling the micro needle **31** to accurately draw or inject a specific organelle of an organism cell.

25 As indicated above, the invention has the following advantages.

1. The apparatus and method provided by the present invention provide an auto organelle observation and identification function, enabling the user to rapidly search the location of the specific organelle to be processed, i.e., the function of the present invention effectively accelerates the operation speed.

5 2. After positioning of a specific cell organelle, the organism cell auto-handling apparatus of the present invention can be precisely positioned to draw the cell organelle accurately. Therefore, the invention improves the operation performance and increases the change of success.

3. The organelle observation microscope unit **20** uses different wavelengths
10 to search the internal organelles of the organism cell sample; such searching does not cause the organelles of the organism cell sample to change their characteristics.

As an alternate form of the present invention, the organelle observation microscope unit of the organism cell auto-handling apparatus is comprised of a high-power light microscope, an image sensor, and an image processor. FIG. 3 shows
15 the operation flow of the organism cell auto-handling apparatus according to this alternate form. As illustrated, the organism cell sample is put on the feed platform, then the organism cell sample is dyed with a dye or fluorescent agent, and then the high-power light microscope and the image sensor are operated to pick up image signals from the organism cell sample. The posterior specific cell organelle positioning
20 and drawing/injecting procedures are same as the aforesaid procedures shown in FIG.
2.

Further, the organelle observation microscope unit can be a confocal microscope unit that directly converts cell organelle image into signal and then transmits the signal to the system controller.

25 Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in

detail for purposes of illustrated, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.